



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

16 November 2006

Excellency,

I am pleased to inform you that on Tuesday, 14 November 2006, agreement was reached on all the outstanding issues regarding the draft resolution on the Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all delegations for their active and constructive participation in the consultation process on this important matter. I would also like to extend my most sincere gratitude to my two Co-Chairs, Ambassador Verbeke of Belgium and Ambassador Diarra of Mali, as well as to the Facilitator, Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu Aguirre of Mexico, for their tireless efforts in bringing this issue to a successful conclusion.

I attach a copy of the agreed text of the draft resolution, which is now being processed as an L-document, for your ease of reference.

I intend to put this draft resolution before the General Assembly for action on Monday, 20 November 2006. I hope that we will be able to adopt it by consensus, to enable the Economic and Social Council to implement its new functions as mandated by our leaders at the 2005 World Summit.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Haya Al Khalifa". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Haya Rashed Al Khalifa

All the Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York

**Draft Resolution for adoption by the General Assembly**

**Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 45/264, 50/227, 52/12B, 57/270B, 59/250 and 60/265,

*Recalling further* its resolution 60/180 of 20 December 2005 and Security Council resolution 1645 of 20 December 2005,

*Reaffirming* the role that the Charter and the General Assembly have vested in the Economic and Social Council and recognize the need for a more effective Economic and Social Council as a principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development, as well as for implementation of the international development goals agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Development Goals,

*Reaffirming* the commitments to and *emphasizing* the need to fully implement the global partnership for development set out in the Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and enhance the momentum generated by the 2005 World Summit in order to operationalize and implement, at all levels, the commitments in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the 2005 World Summit, in the economic, social and related fields,

*Reiterating* that the Economic and Social Council should continue to strengthen its role as the central mechanism for system-wide coordination and thus promoting the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences in the economic, social and related fields in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant General Assembly resolutions, in particular, resolutions 50/227 and 57/270 B,

*Resolving* to accelerate the implementation of the measures and mechanisms defined in its resolution 57/270 B on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

*Welcoming* the decision of the Economic and Social Council 2006/206, "Adapting the work of the Economic and Social Council," of 10 February 2006,

*Recalling* that the Council should increase its role in overseeing system-wide coordination and the balanced integration of economic, social and environmental aspects of United Nations policies and programmes aimed at promoting sustainable development, and reaffirming that the Commission on Sustainable Development should continue to be the high-level commission on sustainable development within the United Nations system and serve as a forum for consideration of issues related to integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development,

*In pursuance of* paragraphs 155 and 156 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

1. *Decides* to maintain the current segment structure of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council;
2. *Decides* that the Economic and Social Council should continue promoting global dialogue, inter alia, through strengthening existing arrangements including;
  - (a) the Special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods Institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;
  - (b) an annual high-level policy dialogue with international financial and trade institutions held in the framework of a strengthened high-level segment of the annual substantive session of the Council; and
  - (c) a thematic discussion on a theme from economic, social and related fields to be decided by the Council and informed by a report of the Secretary-General;
3. *Decides* that the biennial high-level Development Cooperation Forum would be held within the framework of the high-level segment, while stressing the need to preserve the distinct identity of the Development Cooperation Forum so as to facilitate high-level participation, with a view to enhancing the implementation of international development cooperation issues affecting the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and promote dialogue to find effective ways to support it;
4. *Decides* that the biennial Development Cooperation Forum will be held in alternate years in the framework of the high-level segment and that it should:
  - (a) review trends and progress in international development cooperation, and give policy guidance and recommendations to promote more effective international development cooperation;
  - (b) identify gaps and obstacles with a view to make recommendations on practical measures and policy options to enhance coherence and effectiveness and to promote development cooperation for the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(c) provide a platform for Member States to exchange lessons learned and share experiences in formulating, supporting and implementing national development strategies;

(d) in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, be open to participation by all stakeholders, including the organizations of the United Nations, the international financial and trade institutions, the regional organizations, civil society and private sector representatives;

5. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to consider launching the Development Cooperation Forum during the High Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council in 2007 and thereafter meeting in New York starting in 2008;

6. *Decides* that the Economic and Social Council should undertake regular and periodic review and assessment of international economic and development policies and their impact on development;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare an analytical background report for consideration by the Development Cooperation Forum of the high-level segment of the Council;

8. *Decides* that the Economic and Social Council should hold annual ministerial-level substantive reviews as part of the high-level segment and further decides that such reviews should be conducted by means of a cross-sectoral approach focusing on thematic issues common to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, including the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals and review progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the said conferences and summits and their follow-up processes and assess its impact on the achievement of the goals and targets of the conferences and summits and in this regard;

(a) *Recommends* that such a review provide an opportunity for countries to make voluntary national presentations;

(b) *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to urge the functional commissions and other relevant subsidiary bodies and follow-up mechanisms, as appropriate, to contribute, in accordance with their mandates taking into account their specificity, to the assessment by the Economic and Social Council;

(c) *Recommends* that the Economic and Social Council establishes a multiyear programme of work for the Ministerial-level substantive reviews;

(d) *Invites* the organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and the World Trade Organization to contribute within their respective mandates, to the consideration by the Economic and Social Council;

9. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to urge the United Nations regional commissions in collaboration with other regional and sub-regional organizations and processes, as appropriate, to contribute, within their mandates, to the review of progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields and to provide input to the discussions of the Economic and Social Council in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Council;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, when submitting his reports for the High-level segment, to include a concise, analytical section providing an assessment of progress, identifying gaps and obstacles in implementation and making recommendations to overcome these gaps and obstacles for consideration by Member States;

11. *Decides* that the outcome of the high-level segment should be one ministerial declaration;

12. *Decides* that the Council should support and complement international efforts aimed at addressing humanitarian emergencies, including natural disasters, in order to promote an improved, coordinated response from the United Nations;

13. *Stresses* the importance of the humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council in strengthening the coordination and effectiveness of United Nations humanitarian assistance;

14. *Emphasizes* that in addition to the humanitarian affairs segment, the Council should convene ad hoc meetings, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Council, on specific humanitarian emergencies upon request of the affected Member State and following recommendation of the Bureau, such ad hoc meetings should raise awareness and promote engagement of all stakeholders in support of international relief efforts aimed at addressing those emergencies.

15. *Reaffirms* the Council's role in providing overall coordination and guidance for operational development programmes and funds on a system-wide basis, including objectives, priorities and strategies in the implementation of the policies formulated by the General Assembly as well as concentrating on cross-cutting and coordination issues related to operational activities, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions;

16. *Reaffirms* the importance of the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities, through which the General Assembly establishes key system-wide policy orientations for the development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations system;

17. *Recalls* the role of the Economic and Social Council in providing coordination and guidance to the United Nations system to ensure that those policy orientations are implemented on a system-wide basis in accordance with Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993, 50/227 of 24 May 1996 and 57/270 B of 23 June 2003;

18. *Expresses* concern that insufficient provision of conference services and substantive support to the Council's meetings has at times impeded the Council's ability to fulfill its mandate, despite its status as a Charter body, and in this regard, decides to ensure provision of full and substantive support and conferences services to the Council for all meetings necessary to enable the Council to fulfill its strengthened mandate;

19. *Recognizes* that the Council, as a Charter body is entitled to convene meetings as and when needed, with full substantive support and conference services and in this regard, decides that the Council, beginning with the 2007 session, is entitled to convene additional meetings, up to two weeks, in order to facilitate the fulfillment of its newly assigned responsibilities for organizing the Annual Ministerial Reviews and the Development Cooperation Forum, as well as to hold ad hoc meetings, in order to effectively fulfill its mandate as a Charter body;

20. *Recalls* its resolution 60/180 on the Peacebuilding Commission to address the special needs of countries emerging from conflict towards recovery, reintegration and reconstruction and assist them in laying the foundation for sustainable development, and in this regard reaffirms the importance of inter-action between the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission;

21. *Underlines* the experience of the Economic and Social Council in the area of post-conflict peace building and success of the Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on Countries Emerging from Conflict, and invites the Peacebuilding Commission to benefit from it;

22. *Reiterates* that the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission will be based on, *inter alia*, requests for advice from the Economic and Social Council with the consent of a concerned Member State in exceptional circumstances on the verge of lapsing or relapsing into conflict and with which the Security Council is not seized in accordance with article 12 of the Charter;

23. *Reiterates* its request to the Peacebuilding Commission to make the outcomes of its discussions, recommendations and other reports available as United Nations documents to, *inter alia*, the Economic and Social Council;

24. *Decides* to review the implementation of this resolution at its 65<sup>th</sup> session.